THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK) : (a) The functions of the Department of Tourism are promotional, developmental and regulatory in nature with the objective of giving a boost to both domestic and international tourism.

(b) The Indian Tourism Development Corporation is the only public sector unit attached to the Ministry of Tourism. While I.T.D.C. is essentially a commercial undertaking, it also plays a pioneering role in promoting new/hitherto unknown tourist destinations in the country. The Department of Tourism's role is to help in building a sound infrastructure for promotion of tourism, widely pubilcise the same and help in marketing the tourism product both in India and overseas.

(c) The total expenditure for the period mentioned in (b) above is approximately Rs. 154.95 crores.

Indian Travellers Avoiding Air India Flights

657. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news items which appeared in Indian Express (Business Express) of the March 31, 1992 captioned "Aviation Notes" ;

(b) if so, how many passengers were bumped off from Indian flights in 1992 due to requisition of wide-bodies jets of Air India till date ;

(c) whether it is a fact that even ethnic Indian travellers are avoiding Air India due to such sudden unavailability and cancellation of flights ; and

(d) whether the Tata Committee referred to this problem in its report ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Only one aircraft is withdrawn for VVIP flights. Advance action is taken to rebook/reprotect passengers on cancelled flights, if any, on first available flights of Air India and its pool partners. During the year 1992, three flights were cancelled and no passengers were bumped off.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Privatisation of Indian Airlines, Air India and Vayudoot

658. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) wheter there is any proposal under Government's consideration to privatise Indian Airlines, Air India and Vayudoot services ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Presently, there is no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

Recovery of Outstanding Dues by IA

659. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special drive has been launched by Indian Airlines to take the airline out of the red especially to meet the losses incurred by enblock grounding of airbus A-320 aircrafts by recovering of outstanding dues and otherwise; and

(b) if so, the details of such steps taken during the year 1991-92 and the outcome thereof indicating the overall profit/loss for 1991-92 and comparative figures for 1990-91 and 1989-90 ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of the vigorous efforts being made by the Indian Airlines to recover all the

outstanding dues, the percentage of such dues to sales has come down from 21% in 1989-90 to 19% in 1990-91 and 17% in 1991-92. To improve the profitability, Indian Airlines has taken several other steps, such as improved utilisation of A-320 fleet, savings in administrative expenses, control on recruitment of staff, pre-flight checks to avoid wastage on food upliftment on board, etc. The net loss sustained by Indian Airlines during the last three years is as follows :—

1989-90—(Rs. 15.24 crores).

1990-91—(Rs. 64.59 crores).

1991-92—(Rs. 211.55 crores estimated).

Valuation of ITDC Assets

660. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have worked out the principles to be followed to determine the actual cost of shares of the ITDC hotels in the context of present valuation of assets as per market rate before actual consideration of disinvestment process ;

(b) whether Government have engaged any professionals for the purpose ;

(c) whether some offers have also been received from the foreign hotel companies/firms/NRIs organisations; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The disinvestment of shares of India Tourism Development Corporation is not at present under consideration of the Government and therefore the question of determining its actual value of shares does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Government has not received offers for determining the actual cost of shares of ITDC.

(d) Does not arise.

Decanalising the Import of Fertilizers

@661. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to decanalise import of fertilizers ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There is no proposal, at present, under Government consideration to docanalise impore of finished fertilizers.

(b) Does not arise.

Trouble of leather goods exporters

662. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) wheter exporters of leather goods are in serious trouble due to the lop-sided policies of the Government ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of units have been closed down ; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to help the revival of these units and augment exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir, the Government policy in the leather sector has consistently been to progressively discourage the export of raw-materials and substitute it with Value-added leather products.

(b) Government has no information on the closure of a large number of units.

(c) Does not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question 365 transferred from the 30th April, 1992.